



INVITING IN...
GROWING UP...
SENDING OUT...

Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006
Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 935-8516
Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.bentonumc.org



**Holy Communion
Sundays**

Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month in both worship services. And every other Sunday in the month, it is offered in the Ed DeBusk Prayer Chapel on the second floor (directly across from the elevator) between 10:10 AM and 10:25 AM.

Pastor Cheryl invites all who would like to receive Holy Communion more often, or who may miss 1st Sunday, to join her there immediately after Sunday School, which ends at 10:15 AM, and before the 10:30 AM worship

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:
rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

All articles are due by the 20th of each month for the next month's newsletter.

INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2018



Weekly Events

Sundays

Worship 8:15 AM
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study @ Hearne Home 6:00 PM

Mondays

Slushies & Scripture 6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM

Tuesdays

Slushies & Scripture 6th & 7th Grade ... 6:45 AM
Intercessory Prayer Team 9:00 AM
First Place 4 Health 6:00 PM
Men's Basketball 7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Slushies & Scripture HS Boys 6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM
The Closet Workday 11:30 AM
The Closet Distribution 11:30 AM
WOW! 5:30 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Thursdays

Slushies & Scripture Middle School 6:45 AM
Bible Study 10:00 AM

Fridays

Slushies & Scripture 9th Grade Girls 6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM

A Word From Pastor Brad

Church,

As we move into the Easter season of our lives I wanted to offer a story that a West Virginia preacher once shared with me. It captures the Easter story in a powerful way. Enjoy.

Years ago there was a little one-room schoolhouse in the mountains of Virginia where the boys were so rough that no teacher had been able to handle them.

A young, inexperienced teacher applied, and the old director scanned him and asked: "Young fellow, do you know that you are asking for an awful beating? Every teacher that we have had here for years has had to take one."

"I will risk it," he replied.

The first day of school came, and the teacher appeared for duty. One big fellow named Tom whispered: "I won't need any help with this one. I can lick him myself."

The teacher said, "Good morning, boys, we have come to conduct school." They yelled and made fun at the top of their voices. "Now, I want a good school, but I confess that I do not know how unless you help me. Suppose we have a few rules. You tell me the rules you want, and I will write them on the blackboard."

One fellow yelled, "No stealing!" Another yelled, "On time." Finally, ten rules appeared on the blackboard.

"Now," said the teacher, "a law is not good unless there is a penalty attached. What shall we do with anyone who breaks the rules?"

"Beat him across the back ten times without his coat on," came the response from the class.

"That is pretty severe, boys. Are you sure that you are ready to stand by it?"

But another yelled, "I second the motion."

So the teacher said, "All right, we will live by them! Class, come to order!"

In a day or so, "Big Tom" found that his lunch had been stolen. The thief was located — a little hungry fellow named Jim, about ten years old.

Continued on page 3...

Save the Date!!! Benton UMM Fish Fry Fundraiser

Sunday, April 22nd
*immediately following
the 10:30 AM service*



The Benton UMM volunteered to do a fish fry fundraiser to raise money for our much needed security system. Please mark your calendar to support this event!

Monthly & Special Events

Sunday, April 1
 Sunrise Service..... 6:30 AM
 Sunday School 9:15 AM
 Fellowship Time..... 10:15 AM
 Easter Worship 10:30 AM

Monday, April 2
 Church Office Closed
 Staff/Parish Relations Meeting 6:00 PM

Thursday, April 5
 Dinner with Friends at Shane's Seafood 6:30 PM

Sunday, April 8
 Flood Relief Team to Lake Charles 11:30 AM

Thursday, April 12
 Safety Team Meeting 6:00 PM

Friday, April 13
 Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Sunday, April 15
 United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion..... 7:00 AM

Tuesday, April 17
 NWLA Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM
 NWLA Food Bag Packing 10:00 AM
 Nightingales Circle Meeting..... 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 18
 The Closet @ Benton UMC 11:30 AM
 The Closet @ A Cross Faith 11:30 AM
 The Table Ministry Lunch & Devotion 11:30 AM
 The Table Food Distribution..... 12:30 PM

Thursday, April 19
 Worship Team Meeting 6:00 PM

Friday, April 20
 Just a Bunch of Lit Wits..... 7:15 AM

Sunday, April 22
 Fish Fry Fundraiser by the UMM 11:30 AM

Tuesday, April 24
 O.P.A.L.S..... 11:30 AM

Thursday, April 26
 Finance Meeting 6:00 PM

Friday, April 27
 Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Saturday, April 28
 Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM

For more information about these and other events, or to schedule use of a room at the church, please contact Linda Silas in the church office at (318) 965-2273.

Regularly scheduled events are listed on page 1.

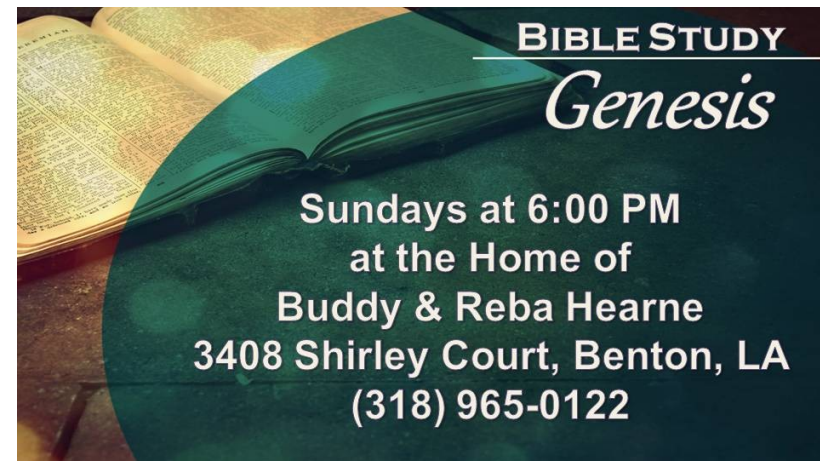
O.P.A.L.S.

(Older People with Active Life Styles)

Tuesday, April 24 at 11:30 AM
 in the Family Life Center
 Cost: \$5.00

The Older People with Active Life Styles will meet in the Family Life/Worship Center for their monthly gathering of fun, food and fellowship. Hillcrest Memorial is treating us to lunch and presenting a program on "Your Life, Your Legacy" which will offer valuable information about planning and preparing for our final decisions. There will be no sales pitches; just answering questions. Everyone is welcome to join us – no cost this month, but we do need you to register by calling Peggy Rumbaugh. Don't forget to bring a donation for the Common Ground pantry. They are our mission focus this year, as we partner with them to provide food staples for needy families in the Cedar Grove neighborhood. This month we are collecting peanut butter.

**For reservations, please contact:
 Peggy Rumbaugh (318) 349-1465**



BIBLE STUDY
Genesis
 Sundays at 6:00 PM
 at the Home of
 Buddy & Reba Hearne
 3408 Shirley Court, Benton, LA
 (318) 965-0122

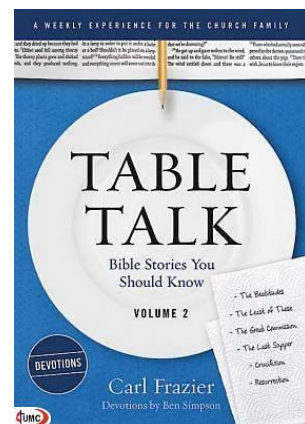


TABLE TALK

Wednesdays

**5:30 PM—Dinner and
 6:00 PM—Study**

**For information or reservations,
 contact: Linda Silas
 (318) 965-2273 or
 linda.silas@bentonumc.org**

Complementing Table Talk's Volume 1 programs, this selection of devotions brings the message home and allows participants to apply the session's message to their own lives.

Volume 2 presents the stories of The Beatitudes, The Least of These, The Great Commission, The Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection.

Materials needed: Notebook, pen, and a Bible.

Serving Our Community



the table
 Food Ministries @ Benton UMC
 Tuesday, April 17
 & Wednesday, April 18

The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, April 17
 9:00 AM Truck Unloading
 10:00 AM Bag Packing

Wednesday, April 18
 12:30 PM
 Food Distribution

**For more information on The Table, contact:
 Kim Hauser kimdenise1996@gmail.com or Rachel Stoneman rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org**

The Closet Clothes Ministry

We need your help at our bustling clothes closet at A Cross Faith Advocacy Center (1659 Palmetto Road in Benton) and at Benton UMC.

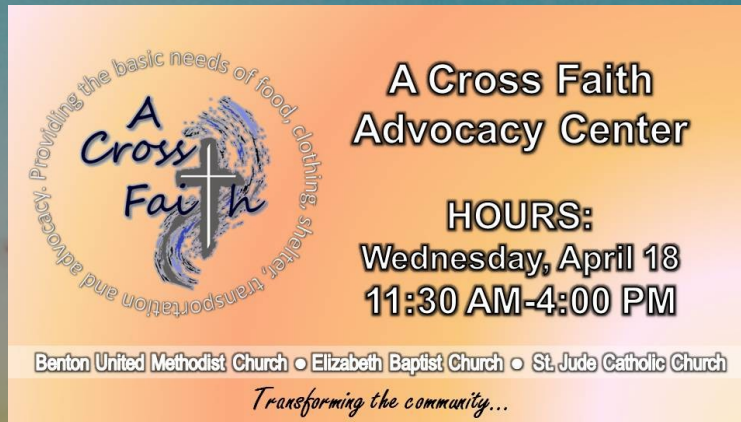
Hours at Benton UMC & A Cross Faith:

3rd Wednesdays 11:30 AM-4:00 PM

All Other Wednesdays..... 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

For more information on The Closet Clothes Ministry, please contact:

**Sue Shadow
 (318) 965-2496
shadow781@bellsouth.net**



**A Cross Faith
 Advocacy Center**
HOURS:
**Wednesday, April 18
 11:30 AM-4:00 PM**
 Benton United Methodist Church • Elizabeth Baptist Church • St. Jude Catholic Church
Transforming the community...



Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to ride along with drivers for deliveries, substitute drivers, soup cooks, and sandwich makers. We have very dedicated volunteers—a family of Christ's servants! We serve on the last Saturday of each month. Please join us to see if this is where you connect in service.

For more information on Souper Saturday, contact:

**Katherine Kavanaugh
 (318) 218-7730
katkavanaugh@bellsouth.net**

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. ~ 1 Peter 4:10

Community Service Spotlight

Left to right: Caroline Moore, Rachel Stoneman, Alyssa Cordell, and Sydney Gawell



Thank You Benton Middle D.I. Team!

Benton United Methodist Church and our Mission Team would like to thank the Benton Middle School D.I. Team for their generous donation to our Emergency Food Pantry. On Tuesday, February 27, a group of middle school youth delivered 1302 non-perishable food items—those will fill 60 emergency boxes of food! The team created a contest for each class and the class that brought in the most items won a cupcake party!

Caroline Moore had called a few weeks before and asked who and how many our pantry served, what types of food it gave out, and if there were any requirements. For the emergency food pantry, there are no requirements—just that a person or family is in need. We serve anywhere from 3-15 a month and sometimes more! We are also an agency of the North-west Louisiana Food Bank and that program does have requirements. Our emergency pantry allows us to help those who may fall through the cracks, are not able to immediately locate the necessary paperwork for the NWLA Pantry, are transient, or in another temporary situation (house fire, fleeing from abuse, unexpected expenses, etc.)

Thank you again, D.I. Team, for your hard work and compassion that extends our outreach to the community!

~ Benton UMC & Benton UMC Mission Team



A Word From Pastor Brad continued from page 1...

"We have found the thief and he must be punished according to your rule — ten stripes across the back. Jim, come up here!" the teacher said.

The little fellow, trembling, came up slowly with a big coat fastened up to his neck and pleaded, "Teacher, you can lick me as hard as you like, but please, don't take my coat off!"

"Take your coat off," the teacher said. "You helped make the rules!"

"Oh, teacher, don't make me!" He began to unbutton the coat, and what did the teacher see? The boy had no shirt on, and revealed a bony little crippled body.

"How can I whip this child?" he thought. "But I must do something if I am to keep this school." Everything was quiet as death. "How come you aren't wearing a shirt, Jim?"

Jim replied, "My father died and my mother is very poor. I have only one shirt and she is washing it today, and I wore my brother's big coat to keep me warm."

The teacher, with rod in hand, hesitated. Just then "Big Tom" jumped to his feet and said, "Teacher, if you don't object, I will take Jim's licking for him."

"Very well, there is a certain law that one can become a substitute for another. Are you all agreed?"

Off came Tom's coat, and after five strokes the rod broke! The teacher bowed his head in his hands and thought, "How can I finish this awful task?" Then he heard the class sobbing, and what did he see?

Little Jim had reached up and caught Tom with both arms around his neck. "Tom, I'm sorry that I stole your lunch but I was awful hungry. Tom, I will love you till I die for taking my licking for me! Yes, I will love you forever!"

Glory! Halleluiah! Jesus is alive!

Your Preacher,
Brad

AARP Defensive Driving Course Thursday, May 10, 2018 12:00-4:00 PM Cypress Baptist Church

An AARP Defensive Driving Course will be offered at Cypress Baptist Church. This course is designed especially for folks who are 55+ and will give you a discount on your auto insurance; but the certificate must be renewed every 3 years. There is a cost of \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members.

If you are interested in attending or if you have any questions, call Cindy Waldrop at 965-2296.



Benton United Methodist Women
President, Pat Mosher

onthelake8@bellsouth.net

(318) 572-3447

Morning Glories

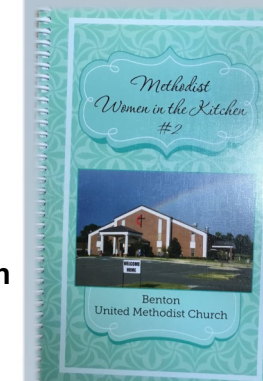
Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 9:30 AM
Breakfast Club Sunday School Classroom

Nightingales

Tuesday, April 17 at 6:30 PM
Breakfast Club Sunday School Classroom

*Mona Bartage will be presenting
Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
Bring toothpaste for Common Ground.

Our luncheon was a huge success! Shellie Rushing Tomlinson, a Christian author and radio host, was wonderful. Thanks to everyone who helped and attended. A **special thanks** to Patsy Burnes from all of us!!! We made over \$2,500.



Methodist Women in the Kitchen #2

Our **Cookbook** is still available in the church office at **\$20 each or 6 for \$100**. They make great housewarming or birthday gifts for those who love to cook or are learning to cook! The cookbook has over 600 recipes.

Proceeds go to United Methodist Women supported missions.

Mark your calendars:

Circles: May 10, 15
No circle meetings in June, July or August

Executive Meeting: June 18 at 6:00 PM
Reports to District due June 15

UMW State "Mission u": July 25-28
Wesley Center - Woodworth, LA

UMW District "Mini Mission u": August 18
at Zwolle UMC – Tamales promised!!

It has already been a busy 2018 year. Our UMW was awesome this January and February and I'm so proud of you. Thank you for serving our church and missions while I was gone Down Under.

~Blessings to you all, Pat

Women's Weekend at Wesley Center

Friday, May 18– Sunday, May 20, 2018

Benton UMC is once again sponsoring a women's weekend retreat at the Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA, facilitated by Pastor Cheryl Nelson and Nurse Funshine Cheryl Fell. This year's focus is **FUNDamentals of Compassion**, so come prepared to do some "heart" work. Cheryl Fell will provide plenty of FUN and Pastor Cheryl will bring the spiritual reflections. We will walk the woodland labyrinth Saturday morning, have worship and Holy Communion in the chapel Sunday morning, and plenty of time to rest, hike, play games, work puzzles, sing, and fellowship with sisters in Christ. We team with FUMC Lafayette and over the years have made dear friends with the women there. The Wesley Center is a wonderful setting for a time apart so treat yourself and save that date. Every woman, young and old, is especially invited. The cost of the weekend is \$125 for a double room and \$175 for a private room; this includes 2 nights' lodging, 6 meals and the use of all the facilities. Registration forms will be in the church office, or you can see Pastor Cheryl; deadline is not until May 10 and you can register online after April 1 by going to www.thewesleycenter.com and clicking on "FUNDamentals Retreat." Pray about it, and we hope to see you there!

Women
OF AIRLINE
PRESENT

His mercies are new every morning

A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 • 6:00 PM • AIRLINE BAPTIST CHURCH



GUEST SPEAKER

Jeannie Pederson

WIFE OF DOUG PEDERSON,
HEAD COACH OF SUPER BOWL LIII
CHAMPIONS, PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

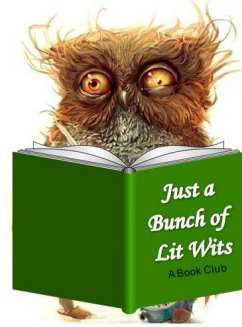
TICKETS: \$10 • AIRLINEBAPTIST.COM

4007 AIRLINE DRIVE • BOSSIER CITY • (318) 746-3495

His Mercies are New Every Morning Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 6:00 PM

The Women of Airline Baptist are hosting a Women's Conference featuring guest speaker, Jeannie Pederson. Jeannie is the wife of Doug Pederson, the head coach of Super Bowl LIII champions, the Philadelphia Eagles. She has an amazing testimony to share with the women in the Shreveport/Bossier area. We would like to extend an invitation to our *His Mercies are New Every Morning: Women's Conference* to the ladies in the community.

We have free childcare available for all who RSVP by April 18th.



Just a Bunch of
Lit Wits
A Book Club

3rd Fridays at 7:15 AM
at Panera Bread on Airline

For more information, contact:
Joel Carter
jlcumc@yahoo.com

Our book club starts over again on June 15, 2018! We meet in April and May then we will choose books at our May meeting. Now is the time to jump in and join the Lit Wits! We would love to have you! Call



On the night of this fire in Plain Dealing, LA: "Camo, my pit bull dog, drug me from my bed and drug me out of those flames into the yard to safety. She thought my daughters Kalee and Halee were in their room sleeping and went back into the house to get them and the roof fell on her and she was overcome by the smoke and didn't make it. I felt as if she was an angel that saved my life. She is because God needed her and through his grace she also gave her life to save mine." Sheri Thompson recalled. "The following days after the horrific tragedy I began to find peace but felt I had lost everything that I cherished, Camo was my best friend. I was in such a dark place and felt as if I had lost everything that I valued. I had no clothes, shoes, no home, I had lost my whole life it seemed. I prayed hard and I asked God to guide me and help me rebuild my life. The day of the fire I had so many people come to see me and bring food, clothes, money, toiletries, household goods and I realized that the love, generosity, and so many beautiful inspirational cards each containing his message to me not to lose my faith in him, and trust him. I knew in my heart that God's work was being done through the people that care for me. God is Good and he is my Lord and Savior."



For this fire, specifically, we were able to meet clothing and household item needs through The Closet Clothes Ministry. But there were many churches and community members that have reached out and shown the love of Christ to Sheri. Please keep her family in your prayers for comfort and strength.

**Ministries that serve those in situations like this are:
Fire Recovery Ministry (Fire Box), The Closet Clothes Ministry, The Table Food Ministries,
Helping Hands, Disaster Relief Ministry, & A Cross Faith**

If you would like to serve in these or any of the other ministries please contact:
Rachel Stoneman (318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org